



U.S. Department of Justice

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For Immediate Release:

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Event: Guilty Verdict

Defendant: Donald C. Hynes

Former Detroit Police Officer Convicted

Donald C. Hynes, a former Detroit Police Department officer, was convicted today by a federal jury which had deliberated for just over two hours. Defendant Hynes was convicted of Conspiracy to Distribute Five or More Kilograms of Cocaine, Aiding and Abetting the Distribution of Five or More Kilograms of Cocaine, Embezzlement of Property Under the Care, Custody and Control of DPD, and Conspiracy to Commit Embezzlement, Conspiracy to Commit Money Laundering, and False Declarations Before a Grand Jury. The offenses charged arose from the theft and embezzlement of at least 101 kilograms of cocaine from the Detroit Police Department Evidence room from approximately 1994 through 2000. The four-day trial was presided over by United States District Judge John Corbett O'Meara.

The evidence introduced at trial showed that Defendant Hynes, who was an officer assigned to the Evidence Room, conspired with John E. Cole, Sr., a civilian DPD employee, to embezzle and sell the stolen cocaine. Cole and Hynes also conspired to disguise their purchases of various assets with money derived from the cocaine sales.

Following an investigation by the Detroit Police Department, Internal Affairs Division, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation Division,

an indictment charging nine people was returned in October 2002. Other than Defendants Hynes and Cole, and a Michigan State Police officer against whom charges later were dismissed, all of the other defendants were relatives or associates of Defendant John Cole, who assisted him in laundering proceeds of the crime or who lied to investigators. All of the other defendants, except the one against whom charges were dismissed, were convicted as well.

United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy stated that "This case demonstrates our commitment to rooting out all public corruption, including by law enforcement officers, root and branch. With our partners in the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Internal Revenue Service, and the Detroit Police Department, we will continue to aggressively pursue such cases."

Daniel D. Roberts, Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation, said "This case represents a continuation of the FBI's aggressive stance in pursuing public corruption matters as it is one of our top priorities. Additionally, we would like to thank the Detroit Police Department and the Internal Revenue Service for their professionalism and assistance during this investigation."

Maurice Aouate, Special Agent in Charge, Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation, said, "Even though the stolen cocaine was long gone, the financial trail remained, allowing investigators to link the illegal proceeds to the guilty parties."

Judge O'Meara set a sentencing date of July 19, 2005 for Defendant Hynes. Hynes faces a mandatory minimum sentence of ten years imprisonment. The United States Sentencing Guidelines call for a sentence of approximately twenty five years. In the federal system, parole has been abolished, meaning the defendant will be required to serve the sentence imposed. Judge O'Meara ordered Defendant Hynes detained in the custody of the United States Marshal pending sentencing.

The case was tried by Assistant United States Attorneys Sarah Resnick Cohen and Jonathan Tukel.